

Purim + Polyester = PARTY!

Purim celebrates several things particularly close to our Congregation's collective heart. We honor the courage and leadership of a strong Jewish woman, and the triumph of a Jewish community over bigotry and oppression. But, in addition, Purim provides an occasion to celebrate one of our great cultural strengths—humor. Although we are of course witty and charming all year round, Purim gives us an opportunity to laugh until we don't know the difference between blessed be Mordechai and cursed be Haman. And, needless to say, at Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, we couldn't possibly let such an opportunity pass without the appropriate pomp, hilarity and costuming.

To make the most of it, the Purim Party Planning Committee has been working feverishly (and laughing almost as hard) to bring you yet another yearly installment of the perils of Esther and Mordechai, known in these parts as Megillah Madness IV. As our tradition dictates, this year's Purim play, entitled *Polyester: a Purim Concocta*, will once again retell the moving story of how Esther and Mordechai saved the Jews, only this time with truly synthetic humor.

If you've never witnessed one of our extravaganzas, you're in for a truly enlightening experience. The traditional story has been reinterpreted for your modern eyes and ears, with a definite sixties beat. (This year, find out the truth about Mrs. Haman.) You can expect to gain a whole new perspective on love, life, Purim and leisure suits.

As if this isn't enough, we'll also have booths with fun and games for everyone to enjoy. Spin the big wheel, try your hand at blackjack, get a big hug at the hugs and kisses booth, or win a chance to toss a pie at Don or Leslie, our beloved President and Vice-President. There'll be still more games, and lots of food and drink—this year featuring real New York egg creams and pretzels (and you thought there was no culture west of the Bronx) as well as the

(Continued on page 3)



PHOTO BY LAURIE DAVIS

From Prague To Jerusalem: A Trip Through Jewish History

[The following is the first installment in a report by Mike Rankin on a recent JCF-sponsored trip.]

On the 15th of Shevat, 1943, Jewish Arbor Day, a group of children in the Terezin (Theresienstadt) concentration camp in Czechoslovakia planted a small tree. The children are gone, but their tree still stands, nourished and protected by the small remnant of the Czech Jewish community who survived the war.

This year on Tu B'Shevat, Ethiopian Jewish children, recently arrived in Israel, planted trees in Ma'alot, in Kiryat Shemona and in other towns and cities throughout Israel.

These two events, so symbolic of the recent history of our people, became an important part of my life and the lives of twenty-four of my friends who were part of a ten-day "mission" to Czechoslovakia

and Israel, sponsored by the Jewish Community Federation of the Bay Area. We wanted to see for ourselves the situation of the Jews in Eastern Europe and in Israel, and to offer whatever assistance and encouragement we could. It was an intense, jarring week-and-a-half, a time that none of us will soon forget. I've written a long report of the trip for publication elsewhere, but I thought the Congregation might be interested in a brief summary.

"Kol Yisroel Arevim Zeh B'zeh," the tradition teaches us: "Every Jew is responsible for every other Jew." That dictum was much on our minds those ten long days in January.

We began in Czechoslovakia, where Jews first settled more than a thousand years ago. It was a rich, vibrant, creative

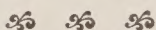
(Continued on page 9)

President's Column

As part of our Congregation's growth, it is important to pause and reflect on the nature of new relationships. For that reason I feel it's helpful for everyone to understand one of the facets in the relationship between our synagogue and the Rabbi. In particular, I am referring to the pulpit as a vehicle for the Rabbi to use in the expression of ideas of spiritual, ethical or social importance. It is traditional to grant the Rabbi the freedom to use that pulpit wisely, without fear of censorship.

Recently Rabbi Kahn spoke out on a controversial matter, the Sanctuary Movement. In the days that followed, I received a wide range of comments about that evening. Some people were moved in a positive manner, and others were not. I mention this here, and at this time, so that everyone can be aware of the leadership's feeling about the pulpit. No one is asked to like everything that the Rabbi may preach, or the way that it's done, but all of us should understand and respect this special freedom. It is granted only to the Rabbi at his pulpit.

If Rabbi Kahn moves you one way or another, let him know. He seeks and needs your input in order to be responsive and provide leadership in our Congregation.



On a lighter note... a few weeks ago our Membership Committee held the annual new member "social" event. Many new members attended and it was a wonderful opportunity for them to meet each other and the Congregation's leaders. For me, it was especially nice to place names and faces together. It is such a pleasure to

Hagadah Job For You!

The Ritual Committee has begun organizing "Hagadah—the Big Production." We hope to publish an entirely new and original version of the Hagadah in time for our Congregational Seder in 1987.

We'll need all kinds of help; but before we can even begin, we need a few more people to help organize the production end: graphics and layout, Hebrew and English typesetting, illustrations, pasteup, etc. Familiarity with Hebrew and liturgy is not required.

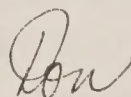
If you're interested in making our new Hagadah a reality, please call Daniel Chesir at 441-8116 (home) or 645-3112 (work).

be part of a growing family. I hope that we are always able to meet the many needs of our growing membership. This was also a time to welcome Robin Leonard as the new Membership Committee Chair. My compliments to Robin and the Committee for a job well done, and I know that she will make an important contribution to Sha'ar Zahav.

Thank you to the Ritual Committee and the Rabbi for the introduction of so many new service leaders. Each of you who debuted in the past few months has brought your own unique warmth to our Shabbat observance. It is that element of individuality which makes Sha'ar Zahav so special for many of us.

Finally, I would like to commend the Social Action Committee for their fine work in arranging the post-oneg Sanctuary Movement education program. Ron Lezell and Ami Zusman had primary responsibility for the event. Thank you both.

Shalom,



Jewish Identity Lectures

The National Foundation for Jewish Culture, in co-sponsorship with the Jewish Community Federation and the Bureau of Jewish Education, will present a major lecture series in March entitled "Jewish Identity: Encounters with American Culture." The series will consist of five lectures given by noted American Jewish scholars and thinkers and will be held in several locations in the Bay Area. The dates and topics are as follows:

March 6—"Marginality, Modernity and Jewish Culture"

March 11—"Jewish Humor: Social Comment and Self-Perception"

March 13—"From the Inside Out: The Impact of Jewish Culture on America"

March 18—"Jewish Identity in Western Cultures: Historical Models, Contemporary Responses"

March 20—"Identity and Creativity: The Jew as Artist/The Artist as Jew"

These lectures will be free to the public. For details about the time and location of each lecture, contact Nanette Stahl at 751-6983.

Love Your Legumes?

Well of course you do. And where are you going to store them? In the new Tupperware that you purchased at our fund-raising party this coming Sunday. The date again is Sunday, March 2nd. The time is 2 pm. The place is Church Street Gardens, 345 Church Street, San Francisco. Attire should be "homemaker-appropriate."

Don't let your legumes down. See you there.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive *The Forward*. For a donation of \$10/year, nonmembers will receive *The Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of *The Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Richard Inlander, Irene Ogus, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Laurie Davis (photos); Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). *The Forward* is typeset by Art-spec Imaging Ltd.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with a frequency discount of 10% for six or more issues. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. *The Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

Ritual Committee

Purim Is Not Merely Megillah Madness

In keeping with our current practice of celebrating holidays when they actually occur (no, we at CSZ couldn't always take that for granted), we will be holding Purim services on the evening of Purim, Monday, March 24th, at 7:30 pm at our synagogue. We will, of course, be reading the Megillah—the Book of Esther (don't worry, not the *whole* Megillah). None of you should think that madness is confined to Megillah Madness© on Saturday, March 22nd. Don't forget that a traditional reading of the Megillah is not complete without appropriate hysteria. So plan to join us for our Purim services.

Polyesther (Continued from page 1)

traditional hamentaschen. Later in the evening the lights will dim as we create a modern version of the ancient Persian institution of the discotheque, where Esther, Mordechai, Vashti and King Ahashueras went to 'get down' (an ancient Persian expression).

Your mind is reeling, you can't believe how much fun it sounds already! But wait—there's more! Enter a contest and win fame and fortune (well, fame anyway)—try your hand at best costume, or enter the Great Hamentaschen Bake-off (don't forget to bring 2 dozen). Whether or not you aspire to the costume title, come in costume to celebrate the festive and silly side of this holiday. Polyesther costumes are, of course, encouraged.

It's going to be hard, but you're going to have to wait until Saturday, March 22nd to come to this social event of the season. But quick, grab your calendar—write it down. It all starts at 8 pm at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, between Guerrero and Valencia, in San Francisco. The hall is wheelchair accessible. Tickets are \$3 for members, and \$5 for non-members, and will be sold at the door. Bring friends (what a cultural introduction for your non-Jewish friends). Both Francine Fishpaw and Aunt Yente say: Be There.

—Tiela Chalmers and Ralph Frischman
for the PPC (not a natural fiber among them)

Cookbook Project

A Bissel This, A Bissel That

Dear Sha'ar Zahav:

The Cookbook Committee received this letter from Ron Moscovitz, the editor of our cookbook and thought all of you would like to read it too!

Dear Cookbook Committee:

It's really great being the first one to read all the wonderful recipes from our members and friends. Wait 'til you read the absolutely definitive kugel recipe, you'll want to try it right away. We've received dozens of recipes so far and great stories to boot! There's still plenty of room for more and that's what I'm writing about. We especially need recipes to fill in traditional (Jewish) menus for the holidays and everyday eating as well!

Would you believe, we need (definitive) recipes for chicken soup, matzoh balls, kreplach, gefilte fish, matzoh meal stuffing, roast chicken, brisket, tzimmes (an infinite topic), kasha varnishkas, tongue, and perhaps Pesadich versions of these dishes.

How about some ethnic (!) dishes: hummus, bab ghanouj, falafel, meat and cheese pirogen, to name just a few. And what about a selection of recipes from the past years' hamentaschen bake-off winners.

And of course we need stories about these recipes. One or two sentences will do. Observations, stories, tales, essays, about food, menus—about being gay, Jewish and alive in San Francisco.

OK Committee, let the Congregation know so we can begin testing, and so tasting can begin.

B'te-avon, Ron



Va'ad Report

The Va'ad held its monthly meeting on the second Monday (February 10) in the Oneg Room. In his D'var Torah, Rabbi Kahn reminded us of the Mishnah's discussion of obligations which have no measure, which include acts of loving-kindness, and in particular, visiting the sick. Each of us should consider that we are members of the Bikkur Cholim Committee; we are all a part of the caring community.

The Va'ad paused in remembrance of congregation member Steve Richter, who died of AIDS the previous week.

President Don Albert discussed the process by which any proposal(s) coming out of the Social Action Committee on the Sanctuary issue will be presented to the Board, and then to the Congregation for its decision, probably at the May semi-annual Congregational Meeting. Don also continued the ongoing discussion of formation of a new committee which will orient new members to the vast range of congregational activities and to the financial structure and needs of Sha'ar Zahav.

Betty Kalis' Treasurer's report stressed, as always, the need for fiscal conservatism in light of a projected deficit for the year.

Betty was commended by the Board for the wonderful job she is doing, and everyone particularly appreciated financial reports that could be understood easily!

Rabbi Kahn reported on no less than a dozen activities that he is involved in, including speaking and teaching engagements throughout the Bay Area and a trip to New York to help shape the Jewish response to the AIDS crisis.

Robin Leonard, new chair of the Membership Committee, presented six applicants whose membership was unanimously approved. During the Building Committee report (presented by Ralph Frischman), we adjourned to the second floor to view the progress on renovation there. This was followed by Ralph switching to his Social Program hat and presenting that committee's plans for the Purim Party. Also, the Va'ad decided that this year's Chanukah extravaganza will be held on the first night of the festival, Saturday, December 27.

Eric Keitel reported on good progress for the Western Regional Conference which we will be co-sponsoring Labor Day weekend, and the Board approved Seder

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What Does a Rabbi Do?

Standing in the Oneg Room on Friday night, many people have asked me, "What does a rabbi do?" For my part, I wonder where the hours go! Since a number of people have expressed interest, I will devote this column to briefly describing some of the different activities I am involved in as Rabbi of the Synagogue.

There are, of course, the obvious things. I attend Va'ad meetings, meetings of various committees, and have appointments with members of the Congregation to assist in the planning of congregational activities. Preparing for Education Night and other educational programs is a major task. I visit members of the synagogue in the hospital and am "on call" with the AIDS chaplaincy at SF General.

A major part of any rabbi's work is planning, writing and leading services and sermons. One of Sha'ar Zahav's greatest strengths is the shared responsibility for this task among the Rabbi and the Ritual Committee and members of the Congregation. Many of these volunteers meet with me one or more times before their services to study the portion, discuss ideas for a sermon, go over the service or perhaps talk about new ideas for the music.

Over the past months, I have been increasingly asked to represent the Congregation in the wider Jewish community—during February, the busiest month to date, on seven separate occasions. I recently returned from a meeting in New York called to establish a coordinated national Jewish AIDS response. (Further details will appear in next month's *Forward*. In San Francisco, I have been working with the Jewish Emergency Assistance Network to focus the organized Jewish community's attention on the needs of people with AIDS and their families and to provide services to meet them. Recently, I was invited to speak on "AIDS: A Rabbinic Perspective" at Temple Shalom in Burlingame. This talk, and others like it, in addition to raising people's consciousness about AIDS and why it is a Jewish concern, are a forum for addressing homophobia, the needs of gay Jews, and an opportunity to talk about the specialness of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Despite our synagogue's years of outreach and visibility, I am consistently surprised by the number of Jewish people I've met who have never heard of CSZ or never

thought about the needs of lesbian and gay Jews. The stereotype that all gay people are lonely people without families still prevails. In a talk I have presented to different groups entitled "The Traditional Values of Non-Traditional Families," I have shown how our congregation demonstrates the traditional Jewish values of family life, communal responsibility and living a "Jewish lifestyle." I also bring the perspective of our congregation to my rabbinic colleagues through meetings of the Northern California Board of Rabbis, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (the association of Reform rabbis) and various academic study groups. This summer, I will spend a few days on the guest rabbinic faculty at UAHF Camp Swig in Saratoga.

Members and friends of the Synagogue come to talk to the rabbi for many different reasons. Some come to arrange a ceremony for a joyous or sad occasion. Others wish to talk over an important issue in their lives. Many of you have said to me at different times "There is something I would really like to talk to you about." My reply is usually, "Please call me and let's get together," since it is difficult to give the matter the attention it deserves in the time available before or after services or class. Please do not think that I am not interested; rather, if it's important to you, let's give the matter the time it deserves. While I have come to know many different people in the congregation, there are also many of you whom I have not yet properly met. If we have not yet had a chance to "get acquainted," I'd welcome an opportunity to do so. Because of the complications of scheduling and the limited hours available, it is sometimes difficult to set an appointment time as soon as we would both like. I also set time aside each week for urgent appointments.

The past few months have been very busy and very exciting. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is an exceptional place and I am proud to be part of it. I look forward to our continuing to study, worship, celebrate and labor together.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

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It's a great way to
celebrate a special occasion.

Brotherhood to Bowl Them Over

Men of Sha'ar Zahav (and friends) mark your calendars now for our next event . . . an afternoon of bowling and pizza. Get set to polish your balls and lace up your shoes on Sunday April 6. Details are not yet final but we will probably gather for three games at Japantown Bowl followed by something to eat at one of our city's famous pizza parlors. Cost of the bowling and shoe rental will be \$7.50 and trophies will be given for best score.

If you're not a bowler and just an eater, come along and cheer us on and then join in on the eats. This is another great opportunity to meet and have some fun with other Sha'ar Zahav men.

Detailed flyers will be out later in March.

If Not Now, When?

Have you ever felt that you wanted to do more in your life to help? Not money, as important as it is, but giving of yourself? But, are you afraid of getting overburdened, too involved, that you don't have time to do as much as you'd really like to? Sha'ar Zahav's Bikkur Cholim Committee can help you, and you can help us. Will you volunteer to give someone a ride to a doctor's appointment, cook a meal for someone just home from the hospital, pay a condolence call? And, would you help organize those who volunteer, so we don't need to lean too heavily on any few people? Come to the organizational meeting of the Bikkur Cholim Committee on March 13th, 7:30 pm, at the Synagogue. If you can't make the meeting, or if you'd like more information, call Rabbi Kahn at the synagogue, or Leslie at 552-0256.

Va'ad Report

(Continued from page 3)

committee chair David Gass' proposal for our annual second night event. We concluded, as always, joined in a circle, for the singing of Oseh Shalom.

It is impossible to convey in this report the excitement of taking part in the decision-making process of this congregation. All members are welcome to attend these meetings and to participate in the (sometimes heated) discussion there. Your views are important to your elected representatives. See you March 10.

—Richard Inlander, Recorder

New Members' Tea and Toast

The invitation promised a toast to new members by toasters from the membership committee in a warm toasty environment with toast point sandwiches and other toasty surprises. Well, the toast point sandwiches never made it, but the Membership Committee came through on all the other promises! On Sunday, February 11, from 3-5 pm, the CSZ Membership Committee held its annual New Members Social at the Synagogue, welcoming the 53 new members who joined the Congregation between January 1, 1985 and January 31, 1986. Over one-half of the new members attended; they were joined by Rabbi Kahn and about 20 other veteran Sha'ar Zahavniks.

Membership Committee Chair Robin Leonard welcomed the new members with introductions to the Membership Com-

mittee (who all donned white carnations), Rabbi Kahn, the Officers, Va'ad members and Committee Chairs. Following this, names of all the new Sha'ar Zahav members were read.

In keeping with CSZ tradition, the Membership Committee provided a great spread of sundry nosh. Leila Raim narrated a brief history of CSZ, showing slides of our many homes prior to the "Home of our Own," High Holiday services, Chanukah and Purim parties and other pertinent events. Rabbi Kahn taught an energetic group some Israeli folk dancing.

A hearty welcome once again to all our new members and congratulations to the Membership Committee for sponsoring such a delightful afternoon.

—Robin Leonard, Chair
Membership Committee



PHOTO BY LAURIE DAVIS

Passover Workshop and Brunch

The Sha'ar Zahav Education Committee and the Cookbook Committee are working together to present a Passover Education Program. Have brunch, learn how to make haroset, matzoh balls, and gefilte fish, and then taste it all. Rabbi Kahn will teach you how to lead your own Seder.

This fun, learning experience will be on Sunday, April 13th, from 11 am to 3 pm in the Oneg Room. Bring a Passover recipe and a Hagadah. To reserve your place, call the Synagogue Office or Ed Tanovitz, 482-4825. \$5.00 per person.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained more new members in February. A warm welcome to our new members:

Mark Vogel
Cindy Icke & Diane Sabin
Allison Loebel & Johanna Johnson
Frances McGowan

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

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- Immediate decisions urged due to newly proposed AIDS screening.

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Labor Day Weekend Conference Update

Exciting plans are currently being developed for the 1st Western Regional Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews. This Labor Day Weekend retreat (at Camp Swig, August 29-31) promises to be one of the highlights of the synagogue year.

As we go to press, workshop/discussion group topics may include some of the following:

- Relationships between Jewish and non-Jewish lovers
- Parenting
- Intimacy in gay and lesbian relationships
- Women in Judaism
- Israeli Dancing/Music
- Legal aspects in gay/lesbian relationships
- AIDS/ARC

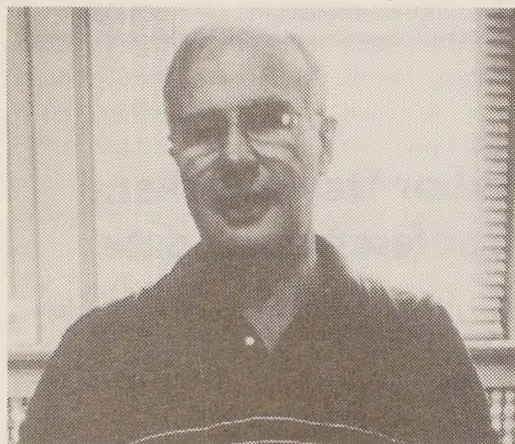
In addition to the opportunities for serious discussions, the weekend will offer quality entertainment, dancing, swimming, hiking and a beautiful wooded setting in the Santa Cruz mountains in which to enjoy them.

Cost for the entire weekend (Friday through Sunday afternoon) will be \$87.50 per person. This includes accommodations, all food and programming. Interest is already running very high among our congregants, so be on the lookout for an upcoming registration flyer and get those checks in early! We're looking forward to the beginning of a new tradition at Sha'ar Zahav—sharing a country weekend with our sisters and brothers from the Western United States—to learn, to grow and to enjoy one another's company. Anyone who has any input or questions regarding the conference should contact Eric Keitel (239-8180).

Spotlight on...

George Lucas

Dapper George Lucas is quite at home spinning gracefully around the dance floor at many of our social functions. With his long legs and white hair, he has become the Fred Astaire of Sha'ar Zahav. George loves to dance. He studied at the Royal Ballet School in London and has appeared in numerous musicals on the London stage with such stars as Tommy Steele.



Born in Wellington, New Zealand, he came to San Francisco in 1964 with his life-partner Tom Rothgiesser. He and Tom met in South Africa while George was appearing in "My Fair Lady" and the two of them are now in their 24th year together.

George has been a member of Sha'ar Zahav since 1977—attending services five weeks after the first small group worshipped together for the first time. Ever since then he has contributed his time in so many different ways. His sewing skills enabled him to make the Torah covers we use as well as the beautiful silver-edged table cover sometimes used for Torah services. He has prepared and served food every Gay Freedom Day Parade. He's probably thrown away lots of frying-oil saturated cloth after making hundreds of latkes for Chanukah. He's been co-chair of the Membership Committee and also worked hard on our early Chanukah raffles.

Like many of our members, George has never been very observant. However, he's always wanted to understand more about Tom's heritage and enjoys Sha'ar Zahav as a place the two of them can be together in a very personal way.

When asked what volunteering meant to him, he responded that "it reinforces our faith in each other." What a beautiful way to express how much he gets out of giving his time. You too can experience the good feelings that come from donating a little, a moderate amount, or a lot of your time to your congregation. Get involved now. You'll like it.

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in *The Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past month by the following contributors:

General Fund

In memory of Iris Medina del Moral, Rosalinda del Moral's stepmother:

Allan Berenstein

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold

In memory of Sophie Roston, Jerry Rosenstein's mother:

Yo Schneeman

Sam Thal

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold

Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper

Aaron Jackson and Richard Wright, in memory of their warm and wonderful friend, Rabbi Ben Marcus

Social Action Fund

Marion Trentman and Betty Kalis, in memory of Iris Medina del Moral

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Aaron Cooper and Eric Keitel, in memory of Sophie Roston

Jerry Rosenstein, in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn

Torah Fund

Don Albert, in memory of Sophie Roston

Building Fund

Eric Keitel and Aaron Cooper, in memory of Iris Medina del Moral

In memory of Sophie Roston:

Allan Berenstein

Ann Lenway

Leonie Darwin

David Gellman

Anita Alexander

Allan Gold

Ron Lezell

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein

Betty Kalis and Marion Trentman

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lowenstein

AIDS Fund

Allan Berenstein, in memory of Neal Schwartz

Buddy Himmelstein

Mike Rankin

Mark Mendelow, in honor of C.J. Keep

Steven Cronenwalt, in memory of his friend Lonnie Richards

Prayerbook Fund

David Gass, in memory of Sophie Roston

Education Fund

Bob Gutterman and Paul Cohen, in memory of Iris Medina del Moral and Sophie Roston

Behind the Scenes

Once again Eli Weinstein, David Gass, Rosalinda del Moral and Hannah Blazewick have come to the aid of Marilyn Hertzberg. Each of these people were able to jump in with a minimum of notice the week prior to the start of the construction project and help close down the office. David Gellman and Rabbi Kahn then spent several hours that weekend storing boxes of supplies and books in the attic and basement.

Robin Leonard has graciously offered to help with letters of welcome to new members.

Once again, Jay Feinstein has been able to take our collections for the food drive over to the S.F. AIDS Foundation.

Ralph Frischman is the congregation's liaison with the contractor. He has spent much time developing the plans, meeting with the contractor, and following the progress of the project. He deserves our thanks for all of the time and work that he has contributed to this project.

Sibling Notes

Los Angeles: Beth Chayim Chadashim held its second annual Shabbaton at Camp JCA Malibu. There were workshops, discussions and other activities focusing on integrating members' Jewish gay and lesbian identities. The congregation also has announced the formation of an AIDS Awareness Group.

New York: Beth Simchat Torah has had visits by several prominent speakers in the last few months. Dr. David Axelrod, New York State Health Commissioner, addressed the congregation and answered questions concerning the state's response to the AIDS crisis. Rabbi Israel Moshowitz, Governor Mario Cuomo's Special Assistant for Community Affairs, addressed a synagogue brunch about the state of Jews in America today.

Chicago: Or Chadash marked its tenth anniversary with a gala dinner party.

MARCH

אדר א' - אדר ב'

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						20 Adar I 1
21 2 Tupperware Party 345 Church St. 2pm	22 3 Membership Comm. 7:30pm 668-6269	23 4 Education Night 7:30pm	24 5	25 6 Newsletter Comm. 7pm 330 Collingwood	26 7 Services 8:15pm	27 8
28 9	29 10 Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm	30 11 Rosh Chodesh I Education Night 7:30pm	1 Adar II 12 Rosh Chodesh II Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am	2 13 Bikkur Cholim 7:30pm	3 14 Services 8:15pm	4 15
5 16 Members w/Kids 3-5pm	6 17	7 18 Education Night 7:30pm	8 19	9 20	10 21 Nominations Deadline Services 8:15pm	11 22 Megillah Madness IV "Polyesther"
12 23	13 24 Erev Purim Services 7:30pm	14 25 Feast of Purim	15 26 Shoshan Purim	16 27 Ritual Comm. 6:30pm 645-3112 Newsletter Mailing 7:30pm 11 Grandview Terr.	17 28 Services 8:15pm	18 29 Morning Services 10:00am
19 30	20 31					

Ritual Calendar

Friday, March 7

Parshah: Va-Yakhel, Ex. 35:1-38:20

Haftarah: II Kings 12:1-17

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Services

Friday, March 14

Parshah: Pekudei, Ex. 38:21-40:38

Haftarah: I Kings 7:51-8:21

Bill Schlichter and Susan Unger,
Services

Friday, March 21

Parshah: Va-Yikra, Lev. 1:1-5:26

Haftarah: I Samuel 15:2-24

Paul Cohen, Services

Friday, March 28

Parshah: Tzav, Lev. 6:1-8:36

Haftarah: Ezekiel 36:16-38

Jonathan Funk, Services

Saturday, March 29

Shabbat Morning Services,
10:30 am

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Services

April Preview

Friday, April 4

Parshah: Shemini, Lev. 9:1-11:47

Haftarah: Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

Mike Rankin, Services

Magnes Klezmer Concert

The Ellis Island Old World Folk Band will celebrate the release of its first album, "Mostly Klezmer," with a concert at the Judah L. Magnes Museum on Sunday, March 23rd at 2 pm. The band was formed in 1980 in the interest of playing and perpetuating the lively Jewish dance music and songs of Eastern Europe, brought to this country by immigrant musicians during the early part of this century. Its repertoire is enhanced with examples of traditional music from Poland, Russia, Greece and Italy. Admission to the concert and the museum is free. For further information phone 849-2710.

Birthdays

- 2 Donald Gordon
- 5 Edward Pollock
- 6 Naomi Baran
- 7 Allen Harris
- 9 Jim Dobkins
- 9 Perry Paker
- 10 Dana Vinicoff
- 13 Stephen Walters
- 14 Carol Fiul
- 15 Russell Kassman
- 17 Roger Gross
- 19 David Kotch
- 21 Mike Abramson
- 21 Jeff Shuman
- 23 Susan Ganz
- 24 Kathi Isserman
- 24 Jay Ladin
- 29 Bob Gutterman
- 29 Harold Parker
- 30 Susan Greenspan

Passover 'Proaches

Our annual Second Night Congregational Seder will be held on Thursday, April 24th, at Golden Gateway Holiday Inn (Van Ness Avenue between Pine and California streets). This event is always a highlight of our Synagogue's year.

New recipes are being researched to provide you with the best in kosher-style (choice between chicken or pot roast) and vegetarian meals. The planning committee is consulting with the catering staff at the hotel developing the menu and adapting traditional recipes. Also, kosher dinners, provided by the Kosher Nutrition Project, will be available upon request.

The Ritual Committee will be leading a reading of CSZ's Hagadah, with the participation of many members of our Congregation. Members, friends and relatives are all invited to attend this joyous event in the life of the extended family that is Sha'ar Zahav.

Make your reservations now using the accompanying form. The deadline for reservations is April 18th. Tickets are \$27.50 for members, \$32.50 for non-members, and \$15.00 for children. Some financial subsidies are available. (Contact our Treasurer, Betty Kalis, at 221-2265.) We also welcome contributions to cover these subsidies. All tickets will be held for pickup at the door.

Plan on joining us at our Congregational Seder on April 24th. Doors will open at 6:00 pm, and the Seder itself will start at 6:30 pm. Individual seating is on a first come basis. Tables of eight may be reserved. For more information, please contact the synagogue office.

Festival of Jewish Art

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations and UAHC Camp Swig are offering a weekend institute entitled "Hagigah: Festival of Jewish Art" as part of an ongoing series for Jewish adults, ages 21-33. The institute will take place on the weekend of March 21-23 and will feature seminars, films, discussions and art workshops bringing together professionals from throughout the state to provide dialogue and instruction on a wide variety of topics. Participants will explore the nature and development of creativity from the Jewish perspective as well as have an opportunity to create their own Judaic artwork. For further information, contact Judy Wolff at 392-7080.

JCF Telethon

Sha'ar Zahav was well represented again this year at the Jewish Community Federation's annual Super Sunday Telethon on Sunday, February 9th at the Fairmont Hotel. Each year, this telethon raises the millions needed for the various JCF projects, here and in Israel, and our synagogue's participation is essential. Our thanks to all those who gave up part of a beautiful Sunday to represent Sha'ar Zahav: Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Aaron Cooper, Eric Keitel, Ron Lezell, Mike Rankin, Sen Talley and Nancy Snow.

Steven Richter (1947-1986)

The Congregation mourns the passing of our member Steven Richter who died of AIDS February 1. A memorial service, led by Rabbi Kahn, was held at his home on Sunday, February 9.

In 1974, Steven moved to the Bay Area from New York to practice law. He was co-chair of Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom (BALIF) and worked diligently on behalf of People with AIDS, offering free legal counsel.

Steven's support of the Congregation and his tireless community efforts will perpetuate his memory for us all.

Members With Kids

Rabbi Yoel Kahn and President Don Albert have scheduled a meeting for members who have children and are interested in discussing needs and planning for the future. The gathering will take place at the Synagogue on Sunday, March 16th, from 3-5 pm. Childcare will be provided. We encourage attendance by those with children of all ages. The gathering is also open to non-members with children who are interested in joining Sha'ar Zahav and would like to contribute to this process.

This is the beginning of a dialogue which can become part of our long-range planning. The leadership of the Congregation needs to know what you would like developed to better meet your family's needs. If you would like to attend, please R.S.V.P. to the Synagogue Office. Those needing childcare should let us know at that time.

Oneg Sponsors

During the month of January, Friday night Onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

January 3—Jerry Rosenstein, in memory of his father's yahrzeit.

January 10—Robin Leonard, Lee Ryan and Tiela Chalmers, in honor of Robin's passing the Bar Exam.

January 17—Rena Frantz and Ora Prochovnick, in honor of becoming members of this congregation and in thanks for their trip to Hawaii.

January 31—David Gass and Marilyn Hertzberg, in honor of their birthdays.

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Ritual All-Day Planning Meeting

On January 19th, the Committee held (endured?) an (almost) all-day meeting to discuss in-depth several issues in a more relaxed and less hurried atmosphere than our monthly business meetings allow. These included:

- the place of Torah reading in our regular services
- the boundaries of diversity in service leading and content
- the role of music—liturgical and otherwise—at CSZ
- sermon content

The results of our discussions will provide guidance for our decision-making process throughout the year.

—Daniel Chesir, Chair

Classified Ads

HOUSECLEANING: Have a nice Jewish girl clean your house, apartment, office. Efficient, reliable, thorough, reasonable. Can't beat that! Marjorie 587-7210.

CLOSET EDITORS & LAYOUT ARTISTS: Get involved in the excitement of creating our own world-renowned newsletter. *The Forward* can use editorial and production help—any level of experience welcomed. Call Bob (641-9111) or Alex (431-7541).

2 GAY JEWISH DUTCH MEN visiting Bay Area March 23-30 seek SF place to stay in exchange for hospitality in Amsterdam. Local contact for details: Micha Cohen 843-5141.

From Prague... (Continued from page 1)

community, one that produced Kafka, and Mahler, and the great Rabbi Loew, whose imagination brought forth the golem, a huge monster who would protect the Jews from the onslaught of anti-Semitism. Einstein taught at Prague's Charles University, once the finest in Europe, a center of learning which freely admitted Jews to its faculty and student body. Compared to the rest of Europe the last thousand years, Czechoslovakia was relatively tolerant. When Hitler came to power in Germany, and later in Austria, the Czech Jews were absolutely convinced it could never happen there. But it did.

There were 75,000 Jews in Czechoslovakia before the war; fewer than 15,000 survived. Some of the survivors went to Israel, some to other countries. Many assimilated, giving up their Jewish identity altogether. There are about 5,000 Jews in the entire country now, approximately 1,500 in Prague. A "Council of Jewish Communities of Czechoslovakia," whose duties are vague and undetermined, is made up of members and leadership appointed by the government. We spent a lot of time with the Council President, a Dr. Galski, but it was never clear to us whether his commitment was more to the Jews or to the government. Those few Jews we were able to speak to in private thought the latter, but it may be that he is doing the best he can in a society where the government decides which aspects of Jewish life are permitted and which are forbidden. The young rabbi was selected by the government for training at the seminary in Budapest (current student body: 23 men from eastern bloc countries). The community preferred another man, but he had spoken out during the Russian invasion in 1968, and so he was not allowed to go.

The current rabbi may officiate at services, but his teaching is strictly limited. When he returned from seminary he offered one evening lecture on Jewish history. To everyone's astonishment, more than 150 people attended. Beginning in the fall he will be allowed to teach one class a month.

Two synagogues still function in Prague. We attended services at one of them, the 13th Century Alte-Neue Shul. The service was wonderful, warm and heimish, with the twenty of us from San Francisco outnumbering the 16 Czechs, several of whom, by the way, were recent Jews by Choice. The Torah portion that week was "Bo," the beginning of the Exodus from

slavery to freedom. I don't think I'll ever hear those passages in the future without thinking of the time I heard them in Prague.

During the service several of the older men tried to tell us what the situation was like for them there. They cannot bring in teaching materials, and when one man noticed the transliterated Hebrew in the Sha'ar Zahav Siddur I was using, he asked if he could keep it for his grandson. I gave it to him, and also gave him the other six copies I had brought, hoping someone might want them. The Jewish spark is still flickering in that ancient community. They are trying to pass it on to the young, and at least in one instance the liturgy of our congregation is being used to help in the teaching.

Saturday evening our group had Havdalah in the hotel room of one of us. We lit the candles, smelled the spices, tasted the wine, sang the familiar melodies, and spoke of what we had seen and felt that morning. Outside the window of the hotel room we could see the old synagogue, dark, quiet, and beautiful in the snow.

Sunday morning most of us toured the "Precious Legacy" synagogues, beautiful old buildings now used to store the treasures of centuries of Jewish life in Czechoslovakia. Very little of the material is on display; those who saw the "Precious Legacy" pieces when they toured the United States last year saw far more than most Czechs will ever see.

A few of us left the group on Sunday morning to meet privately with dissidents and refuseniks whom we had heard about through various sources. We took them clothes, books, and as one of them said,

(Continued on page 11)

Yahrzeits

- 2 Fannie Leiss, Mother of Walt Leiss
- 6 Pearl Lewin, Grandmother of Richard Inlander
- 11 Hannah Goodman, Aunt of Eric Keitel
- 12 Helen Coleman, Friend of Pamela Singer
- 16 Marguerite Kotch, Mother of David Kotch
- 16 Ted Mendonca, Lover of Richard Inlander and CSZ member
- 16 Ariel Thal, Father of Sam Thal
- 20 Minnie Tonn, Grandmother of Allan Gold
- 21 Alan Vinicoff, Father of Dana Vinicoff
- 22 Sylvia Vogel, Mother of Lee Vogel
- 25 Willie Mae Nabors, Mother of Barbara Nabors-Glas
- 27 (16 Adar II) Joseph M. Cohen, Father of Paul Cohen
- 27 James Robert Rankin, Father of Mike Rankin
- 30 Abraham Kramer, Grandfather of Steve Cronenwalt

The following Adar yahrzeits were inadvertently omitted from last month's listing:

- 2/15 (6 Adar) Max Raim, Father of Leila Raim
- 2/25 (16 Adar) Mollie Podgur, Mother of Hal Podgur
- 2/26 (17 Adar) Sam Schwartz, Father of Paul Schwartz
- 2/26 (17 Adar) Helen Pechter, Mother of Bernard Pechter
- 2/26 (17 Adar) Walter H. Solomon, Grandfather of Elliott Toporek

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

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So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

You always take the viewpoint of Reform Jews, encouraging people to change our traditional law to suit themselves. As one of the Orthodox Jews who regularly attends Sha'ar Zahav, I don't approve of this. I think the basis of our religion is to follow tradition, not change it.

Traditional on Taraval

Dear Traditional,

Aunt Yente thanks you for what that nice boy Ted Koppel would call a very provocative letter. Before she answers, though, she has for you a burning question: where do you sit? Orthodox Jews, of course, will not pray at services with men and women sitting together; but although your Aunt Yente would love to sit in the ladies' section (for reason she doesn't need to go into), she hasn't been able to find it. Is she missing something?

Aunt Yente also worries that there are other parts of our service which would bother an Orthodox person. Aside from praying in English, we actually like to have women lead our services, which is totally unacceptable by the Orthodox. And as to how our synagogue fits with the Orthodox teaching on sexuality, Aunt Yente won't even begin to discuss.

From all this, Aunt Yente must conclude that *zehr* few Orthodox people come to Sha'ar Zahav. Reform Jews with Orthodox backgrounds, certainly. Reform Jews

who choose to follow many of the Orthodox practices, absolutely; Aunt Yente counts herself as one of these. Even people who may prefer not to label the kind of Jew they are. But Orthodox? Where do they sit?

But before we get more *famished* in who should be called Orthodox and who Reform, let Aunt Yente tell you that if Orthodox means people who follow tradition without changing it, as far as your Aunt Yente is concerned, there are no Orthodox Jews. You want a for example? Aunt Yente will give you a for example. In the Ralmud, the rabbis encourage praying in language people understand; but Orthodox tradition only permits significant prayers to be in Hebrew. Even at the Seder, where the Talmud specifically tells us that explanation must be given in everyday language, it is the Orthodox practice to use Hebrew instead. Somewhere along the line, the Talmudic rule was—you should pardon the expression—reformed, to meet new considerations.

But maybe you think that at least the rabbis of the Talmud were Orthodox, following without question what was written in the Torah? But just like Reform Jews today, the rabbis found parts of the Torah no longer acceptable for their times, and changed them. They didn't exactly admit they were doing this, but faced with clear passages in the Torah like "an eye for an eye" or "you shall cut off her hand," the rabbis said, *eppes*, the Torah simply can't mean something this barbaric. And the rabbis would make a different rule.

But at least the people who wrote the Torah, *they* were Orthodox, and accepted the Torah without change? Even here, *kindertlach*, look at what the prophet Micah said about the laws of sacrifice that were set out by Moses. And if you think maybe Micah was the first Reform Jew, you should go look at Psalm 50, written maybe by King David. (Micah and David were both nice Jewish boys, but they didn't have such pretty hair as Ted Koppel.)

Aunt Yente thinks that the argument over who is Orthodox, who is Reform, should there be a lot of change, should there not be a lot of change, is not the important question. Better we should concentrate on why there is change, or why there is not. Changing tradition because it is not meaningful makes sense to your Aunt Yente. She also respects those who choose not to change tradition, because following it has meaning to them. But

some things she does not respect. Abandoning traditions only because they are inconvenient is not Reform Jewishness, it is simply lazy Jewishness (a much larger denomination), and it bothers your Aunt Yente when people do this and call it "Reform." And holding on to traditions which no longer make sense or which are hurtful, like many of the "Orthodox" rules on women's roles in the synagogue or on sexuality, Aunt Yente cannot respect at all.

But actually, as long as you are willing to consider some sensible change in your religion, and let others also, Aunt Yente will not quibble over what you call yourself. If by you, Aunt Yente can call herself a writer, so *eppes* by Aunt Yente you can call yourself Orthodox. (But if there is a ladies' section, will you let Aunt Yente know?)

Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of *The Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material © 1986 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Social Action

Shabbat in the Tenderloin

Each month, Jewish Family & Children's Services organizes a Shabbat luncheon for Jews living in the Tenderloin. On Friday, January 31st, the luncheon was hosted by members of Sha'ar Zahav's Social Action Committee. The eight CSZ members who decorated the room, served the meal, entertained and cleaned up represented one of the largest groups from a synagogue to host one of these events. Our thanks to those who represented us all in performing this mitzvah: Bob Berkowitz, Rabbi Kahn, Eric Keitel, Ron Lezell, Michael McCormick, Jonathan Mesinger, Irene Ogus and James Proctor. For more information on the activities of the Social Action Committee, contact the office or one of the members of the committee.

Anniversaries

- 7 Kathi Isserman and Debbie
- 22 Kathy Sharp and Judy MacLean



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"a breath of free air." These people are closely watched by the government; few of them are allowed to work in their chosen professions. The American embassy staff make it a point to invite them to embassy functions, and they use the embassy library to read and to listen to music. The embassy had a special screening of the movie *Amadeus* for them; it was filmed in Prague, but the government has not allowed it to be shown in the public theatres.

In the afternoon we went to Terezin, a village just north of Prague which was transformed into a concentration camp by the Nazis. I wasn't looking forward to this part of the trip. I've read the Holocaust literature, I've toured Yad Vashem, I know the stories and the statistics. During the war three refugees lived in my grandmother's home, and they told us of their experiences. I didn't need further reminding. But it was expected that we would all go, so I did. Riding up to Terezin, I went over it in my mind, wondering what I would feel there. Probably a blind rage at all living Germans over 60; disgust for all those in the west who had had no room for refugees, especially Jewish refugees; anger at those in the east who until this day will not allow the word "Jew" on the memorial at Babi Yar.

Instead, I felt only a deep sadness. Jan Muller, a survivor of both Terezin and Auschwitz, took us through the small town and the prison fortress adjoining it. At the cemetery on the edge of town, a small distance from the crematorium, we gathered beneath the tree planted by the children of Terezin, and read the incredible poems they wrote there. We chanted *El Malei Rachamim* and *Ani Ma'amim*, and said the mourners' Kaddish. I wanted to read a passage from our Yizkor service, but when my turn came I found I couldn't speak. One of the group took the machzor from my hand and read it for me: "With David and Jonathan we remember you; with Ruth and Naomi we remember you." There was silence, and then someone began, softly, to sing *Hatikvah*. We all joined in, holding tightly to Jan Muller and to each other.

Terezin represents the nightmare of the Jewish past. Is there a Jewish future in Czechoslovakia?

I believe there is. There is a sense of community there, and even the cautious stirrings of a religious revival. In the Jewish Community Hall in Prague, 200 men

and women, most of them Jewish, gather five days a week for lunch, conversation, and cards. Chanukah and Purim celebrations in the hall are very well-attended; plays are put on by some of the best actors and actresses in Prague, both Jewish and non-Jewish. At least one family has quietly prepared their son for Bar Mitzvah, the first in Czechoslovakia in 15 years. And the rabbi may not be the one they wanted, but he is a rabbi, and he is beginning to teach.

How can we help? By visiting them, and by sending whatever books and letters and religious materials we can get in. The American Joint Jewish Distribution Committee is doing all that the Czech government will allow them to do (the Joint, for example, pays for most of the meals at the Community Hall). British Jews visit often when they come to Prague on holiday. Above all, we have to let them know we care about them; they have to know they are not forgotten, and they are not alone.

[Continued next month]

Future Dates

April 1986

Wed 23 Passover—1st Seder
Thu 24 Congregational (2nd) Seder

May 1986

Fri 2 Yom Hashoah
Sun 4 Congregational Meeting
Tue 27 Lag B'Omer

June 1986

Sun 1 Lag B'Omer Picnic
Thu 12 Erev Shavuot
Fri 27 Officer Installation
Sun 29 Gay/Lesbian Parade

July 1986

Fri 11- Leadership Advance
Sun 13 Wildwood Ranch

August 1986

Fri 29- Western Regional
Sun 31 Conference—Camp Swig

September 1986

Sun 21 Castro Street Fair

October 1986

Fri 3 Erev Rosh Hashanah
Sat 4 Rosh Hashanah
Sun 12 Kol Nidre
Mon 13 Yom Kippur

Food Bank Needs Your Help

The Food Bank of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation desperately needs your help today. Over 160 people with AIDS visit the Food Bank every month to supplement their kitchen cupboards. The Food Bank's shelves need refilling with canned, packaged and nutritious items. Next time you go shopping, please purchase a few extra items and drop them off in the baskets at our Oneg Room or at the Food Bank at 333 Valencia Street, 4th floor. Help us help others. For more information, call 864-4376.

Essential Food Bank Needs:

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Soups	Toilet Paper
Macaroni & Cheese	Ketchup
Laundry Soap	Tuna Fish

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

שַׁעַר זָהָב

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn.

Officers:

President, Don Albert
Vice President, Leslie Bergson
Treasurer, Betty Kalis
Recorder, Richard Inlander

Va'ad (Board) Members:

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Allyce Kimerling
Garry Koenigsberg
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Jerry Rosenstein
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Committee Chairs:

Bikkur Cholim, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, Paul Cohen
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Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ron Lezell
Social Program, Shirley Liberman
Women's Havurah, Allyce Kimerling

Administrator: Marilyn Hertzberg

The Synagogue Office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. At other times, please leave a phone message.

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Emergency Number: In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th & Market Streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus no. 33 (Ashbury line) to 18th & Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

Services are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m.—check calendar for each month.

Holiday Home Visits

The Jewish Family and Children's Services is organizing visitors to spend some time with elderly Jewish residents of nursing homes in the city around Purim and Passover. If you are interested in participating in this rewarding program, please call Debbi Goodman during business hours at 567-8860.

JFC Assistance to People With AIDS

The Jewish Family and Children's Service offers counseling, homemaker services and some limited financial assistance to Jews in the Bay Area who have AIDS. The program, which was developed with the assistance of Rabbi Kahn, is coordinated by Michele Frisch. Anyone wanting information should call her at 567-8860.

Elections Committee News

The Elections Committee is hard at work selecting and reviewing members of the Congregation to nominate the 1986-87 candidates for officers and Va'ad. The guidelines for qualification (and they are guidelines, not criteria) are posted on the bulletin board in the Oneg Room. If you would like to bring yourself (or another member, if he or she is modest) to the Committee's attention, we encourage you to do so. The deadline to file for nomination is March 21st, so don't hesitate.

We'd like to be able to present you with the best possible choices for leadership of the Congregation. You can help by keeping up on our activities, reading the candidates' statements, attending candidate nights, and most important . . . by voting!

Leslie Bergson, Chair
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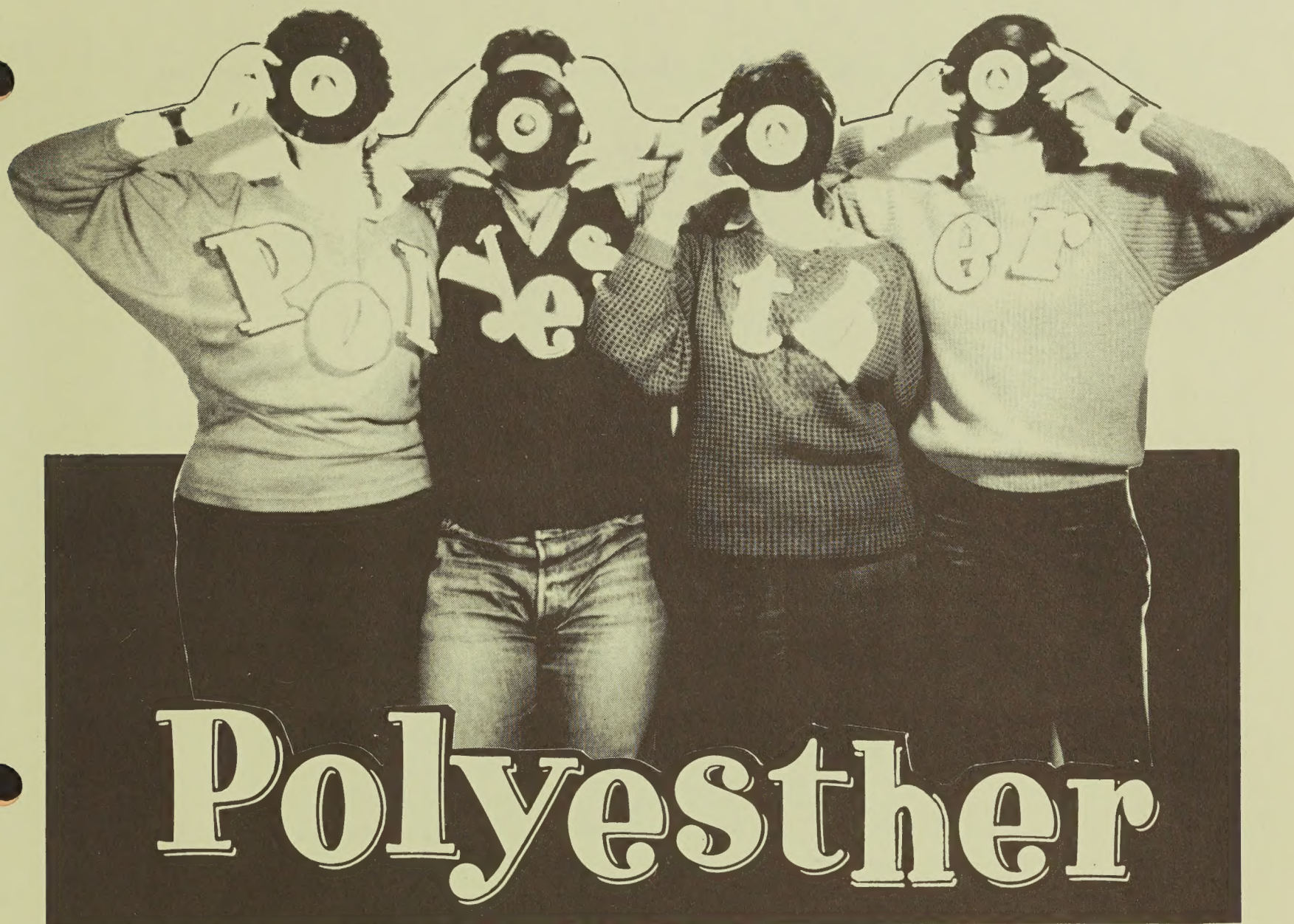
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CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV



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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

Please reserve the following number of places for:

_____ Members (at \$27.50 each)

_____ Non-members (at \$32.50 each)

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_____ Kosher-style meals (chicken)

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_____ Kosher Nutrition Project meals

_____ Vegetarian meals

In addition, I wish to donate \$_____ toward Seder subsidies.

☐ I request that signing for the hearing impaired be provided.

☐ My check for \$_____ is enclosed.

☐ Please charge \$_____ to my Visa or MasterCard as follows:

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Signature: _____

**Mail to: Congregational Seder
Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
220 Danvers at Caselli
San Francisco, CA 94114**

**All reservation forms must be received by Friday, April 18
Tickets will be held at the door under the name provided above.**

